

U.S. Application No. 10/824,905, filed April 15, 2004
Amendment dated November 2, 2006
In Response to Office Action of October 6, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 13-29 were pending. Claims 19-24 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 30-39 have been added.

Excess Claim Fee

In view of the amendments to the claims, twenty-one (21) claims are now pending. It is believed that an excess claim fee is now due since the number of pending claims exceeds twenty (20).

Fee Determination: 1 excess claim \times \$50/excess claim over twenty = \$50 excess claim fee. It is believed that a \$50 excess claim fee may be due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant files herewith an information disclosure statement listing documents that were cited during the prosecution of the parent application to the present application. The parent application is U.S. Application No. 09/776,263, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,745,354 B2, filed February 2, 2001.

The present application is a CONTINUATION of said U.S. Application No. 09/776,263.

Fee Determination: An information disclosure statement fee of \$180 may be due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

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Claims 19-24 Cancelled, Without Prejudice

Applicant cancels, without prejudice, claims 19-24. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the subject matter recited in any of the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Claims 13-18 and 25-29 Allowed

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that claims 13-18 and 25-29 are allowed.

Claims 20-22 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that claims 20-22 recite patentable subject matter.

Applicant has added a new independent claim, namely, claim 30 that recites the patentable subject matter as set forth in claim 20. It is respectfully submitted that claim 30 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 31-39) are in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

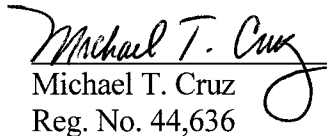
Applicant does not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: November 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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